

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003478/25
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(9 September 2025)**

Subject: Requirement for farmers to declare Land Identification Numbers (ATAK) in order to receive direct payments

The Nea Dimokratia Government's decision that Land Identification Numbers (ATAK) must be declared before direct payments can be made has left thousands of farmers at an impasse, as they also cultivate land for which such a number does not exist. The extension until 30 September 2025 granted for the provision of the ATAK for aid applications — the deadline for submission of which expired on 29 August 2025 — does not solve the problem, as in most cases there is no number.

The Nea Dimokratia Government and the EU present the ATAK as a tool that allegedly ensures that aid is directed to the beneficial owners.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Given that it has been established that the E9 declarations (which are required to issue an ATAK) not only failed to prevent the OPEKEPE scandal, but actually helped enable it, with ministers of the Nea Dimokratia Government and OPEKEPE's administrations responsible, what is its reasoning for imposing, together with the Nea Dimokratia Government, the requirement to declare the ATAK as a condition for the payment of subsidies?
2. How will it be ensured that farmers receive the aid they are entitled to on the basis of their actual production and actual livestock count, and that they will not be made to foot the bill for the OPEKEPE scandal, which took root within the framework of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy?

Submitted: 9.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 November 2025)**

The EU legislation requires that farmers have at their disposal the land for which they claim direct payments. As for the means for the national authorities to ascertain the fulfilment of this requirement, it is up to the Member States to lay down the conditions to determine whether the land is at the beneficiary's disposal.

Member States possess a margin of discretion to adopt the measures necessary to ensure effective protection of the financial interests of the EU ⁽¹⁾. Therefore, they may require an applicant to submit a certain type of document concerning the claimed area covered by the aid application (Geo-Spatial Application), provided that the objectives laid down in EU rules and the general principles of EU law, in particular the principle of proportionality, are respected.

⁽¹⁾ Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.